

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05250 101142Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 STRE-00 /092 W

-----101840Z 103773 /43

R 101015Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9966

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5250

SECSTATE PASS TREASURY AND OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRADE REP.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TH

SUBJECT: GSP SEMINAR

REF: A) 76 BANGKOK 33632 B) STATE 0004937

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 1-2, THE RTG, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, ASSISTED BY THE EMBASSY AND USOM PUT ON A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TWO DAY SEMINAR TO PROMOTE THE GREATER USE OF THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) BY THAI EXPORTERS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE REQUEST OF THE RTG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, ANTHONY GEBER, DIRECTOR AND COMMERCIAL COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC POLICY, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE; STEVEN LANDE, ASSISTANT SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF BILATERAL AND THIRD WORLD AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS; AND DAVID RAMSAY, PROGRAM MANAGER, DUTY ASSESSMENT DIVISION, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, CONDUCTED A SEMINAR TO GUIDE AND ENCOURAGE THAI EXPORTERS TO MAKE GREATER USE OF THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP). THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEMINAR WAS HELD AT A MAJOR BANGKOK HOTEL.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 05250 101142Z

BECAUSE OF GOOD PUBLICITY EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE RTG AND USIS, 168 REGISTERED AND 150 PARTICIPATED IN THE DAY LONG EXPOSITION BY THE U.S. EXPERTS AND THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE SECOND DAY WAS DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF SEPARATE, HOUR LONG SESSIONS HELD AT THE EXPORT SERVICE CENTER, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. THESE SESSIONS WERE SPECIFICALLY GEARED TO EXPORTERS IN THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PRODUCT AREAS: FOODSTUFFS, CERTAIN TEXTILES

AND JUTE YARN PRODUCTS, JEWELRY, RATTAN AND BAMBOO PRODUCTS, AND WOODEN PRODUCTS, AND ATTENDANCE VARIED FROM 20 TO 40 PER SESSION.

2. AS THE EXPERTS POINTED OUT DURING THE SEMINAR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THAILAND RANKS FAR DOWN ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE GSP IN 1976. OF THE APPROXIMATELY 18 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF THAI PRODUCTS EXPORTED WHICH FALL INTO GSP CATEGORIES, SOME 15 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH ENTERED DUTY FREE, INDICATING THAT IN THIS RESPECT AT LEAST THAILAND WAS UTILIZING THE SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, THAILAND'S EXPORTERS COULD EASILY ADD TO THE 236 PRODUCT CATEGORIES (THE GSP LIST CONTAINS SOME 2,750 CATEGORIES) THEY ARE PRESENTLY EXPORTING. THE EXPERTS URGED THE BUSINESSMEN TO APPROACH THEIR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THEIR U.S. IMPORTERS TO REQUEST ADDITIONS TO THE GSP LIST. ALL THREE REPRESENTATIVES WERE COMPLIMENTARY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE AMERICAN GSP PROGRAM.

3. ON FEBRUARY 28, THE GROUP MADE A ONE HALF HOUR LONG VTR AT USIS FOR FUTURE USE AND THEN CALLED ON THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AND THE FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT, CO-SPONSORS OF THE SEMINAR. LATER THAT AFTERNOON, A WORKING SESSION WAS HELD WITH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE GSP PROGRAM. THAT NIGHT THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT HOSTED A DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE.

4. PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRESS CLIPPINGS WILL BE POUCHED TO EA/TB.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 05250 101142Z

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS SEMINAR AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. THE RTG DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN PREPARING THE PROGRAM, ORGANIZING THE SEMINAR ITSELF AND IN PUBLICIZING THE EVEN IN THE LOCAL PRESS. ATTENDANCE, WHICH SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS, TOTALLED 150, ALL EXPORT ORIENTED. THE COMBINATION OF GEBER WHO SPOKE FIRST AND GAVE A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO GSP WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS TO THE ASEAN NATIONS IN PARTICULAR, LANDE WHO FOLLOWED WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, COMPETITIVE NEED EXCLUSIONS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS, ETC. AND RAMSAY WHO CONCLUDED WITH A DESCRIPTION OF CUSTOMS' ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WAS AN IDEAL MIX. THE GREAT INTEREST DISPLAYED BY THAI EXPORTERS WAS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT VERY FEW LEFT EARLY AND BY THE MANY QUESTIONS ASKED DURING THE SECOND DAY. ONE COMMENTATOR IN A THAI LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, IN AN ARTICLE ON MARCH 3RD, IN GLOWING TERMS, PRAISED THIS USG EFFORT TO HELP THAILAND DEVELOP ITS ECONOMY, COMMENTING THAT "THE THREE AMERICANS IMPRESSED ME MORE THAN IF THEY HAD BEEN DOZENS OF U.S. MILITARY GENERALS VISITING OUR COUNTRY." THE EMBASSY REGRETS THAT OTHER POSTS IN THE REGION CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM AT THIS TIME

AND SUGGESTS, IF THE THREE EXPERTS FEEL IT IS WARRANTED, THAT  
CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ORGANIZING SIMILAR SEMINARS ON A  
REGIONAL BASIS.

WHITEHOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS), SEMINARS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGKO05250  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770083-0084  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacntv.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2abad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 33632, 77 STATE 4937  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3155163  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GSP SEMINAR  
**TAGS:** ETRD, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2abad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009